

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A method for bandwidth conservation and bit rate reduction between two nodes in a serial bitstream network comprising TDM bonding multiplexers at a transmitting and a receiving end, said method comprising the steps of:

measuring differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end using FAS multiframe as reference for the measurement; and,

using a time compensation bit in every basic frame constituting a Multiframe for adjustment of said differential delay between a plurality of transmission lines at the receiving end.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of monitoring channel availability using bits, such as CRC-4, E-bit and A-bit.

21. (New) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of using spare bits (Sa) as link identification bits to compensate for pair crossing, thereby securing correct transmitter and receiver timeslot sequence by said link identification.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of calculating capacity of link identifications between transmitter and receiver identified by the spare bits using the expression  $2^{Sa}$ .

23. (New) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of compensating for  $n \times 125\mu s$ , where  $n$  is a number of basic frames using said means for measurement of differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end.

24. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein said method complies with ITU recommendation G.704.

25. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein said TDM bonding multiplexers perform inverse multiplexing.

26. (New) A system for bandwidth conservation and bit rate reduction in a serial bitstream network, comprising:

TDM bonding multiplexers at transmitting and receiving ends of said network;  
means for measuring differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end using FAS multiframe as reference for the measurement; and,

means for using a time compensation bit in every basic frame constituting a multiframe for adjustment of said differential delay between a plurality of transmission lines at the receiving end.

27. (New) The system according to claim 26, further comprising means for monitoring channel availability using bits, such as CRC-4, E-bit and A-bit.

28. (New) The system according to claim 26, further comprising means for using spare bits (Sa) as link identification bits to compensate for pair crossing, thereby securing correct transmitter and receiver timeslot sequence by said link identification.

29. (New) The system according to claim 28, further comprising means for calculating capacity of link identifications between transmitter and receiver identified by the spare bits using the expression  $2^{Sa}$ .

30. (New) The system according to claim 26, further comprising means for compensating for  $n \times 125\mu s$ , where  $n$  is a number of basic frames using said means for measurement of differential delay between a number of transmission lines at the receiving end.

31. (New) The system according to claim 26, wherein said system complies with ITU recommendation G.704.

32. (New) The system according to claim 26, wherein said TDM bonding multiplexers perform inverse multiplexing.

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